In May, 2005 Government has decided that the calls between Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) service areas would be treated as intra-service area calls and permitted dialing of mobile to mobile and landline to mobile calls between Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) without prefixing 'O'. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has also implemented the said dialing facility.

(c) and (d) Ghaziabad and Noida Telephone Systems being part of National Capital Region (NCR) are included in the Delhi Metro Service area for the purpose of CMTS License. The same concept of service area is also applicable for Unified Access Services (UAS) License.

Since, subscribers of CMTS/UAS located in Ghaziabad and Noida are part of Delhi Metro Service Area, they have the same dialing facility as that of any other subscriber of Delhi Metro service area.

(e) Yes, Sir. However, no time frame has been fixed.

Collapse of telephone Exchange Building in Bihar

2559. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tower which had fallen some months back on the Telephone Exchange building at Supaul, Bihar has still not been removed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether non-removal of the tower may lead to collapse of the exchange building ;during heavy rains causing extensive damage to life and Government property;

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against officers reponsible and by when; and

(e) what steps Government would take to ensure that the tower is removed at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The work of removal of material of fallen tower is in progress.

(b) The tower fell on 9th April 2005 due to heavy cyclonic storm. For removal of the tower material, work has been awarded to contractor and about 40% of the work has already been completed.

(c) No, Sir. Whatsoever minor damage to building has taken place at the time of fall of tower it is limited to the same. No further damage to building or life is expected.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.

Upgradation of telecom services in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

2560. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be plessed to state:

(a) the details of works relating to progress, expansion and upgradation of telecommunications in the urban and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact the progress in the rural areas is very slow compared to that of urban areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by government to improve the functioning at a fast rate in this regard in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the major service provider in the rural areas. The details of the works done by BSNL with regard to the development expansion and gradation of telecommunications in the urban and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last one year are available are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The population in rural areas is sparsely distributed over a